

Chapter 5 Injection Drug Users

Chapter 5 provides a profile of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among injection drug users in Massachusetts based on several different data sources. HIV and AIDS case data are presented to provide a demographic description of people living with HIV/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through their own injection drug use or through exposures related to injection drug use. Behavioral data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) present regional data on public support for needle exchange programs. Additional behavioral data collected by the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System (YRBS) present data on injection drug use among youth. Counseling and Testing data are presented to provide information about people who were tested for HIV at state funded sites that reported injection drug use as a risk behavior. Utilization data from state-funded needle exchange programs are presented to describe injection drug users who access these services. Lastly, data collected from state funded substance abuse treatment services describe the demographic profile of people in treatment for their injection drug use at state funded sites.

Injection drug use has accounted for the largest number of AIDS diagnoses across exposure modes from 1992 to 2000. From 1990 to 2000, the percentage of AIDS diagnoses with injection drug use as an exposure mode has fluctuated between 30% and 40% of all diagnoses.

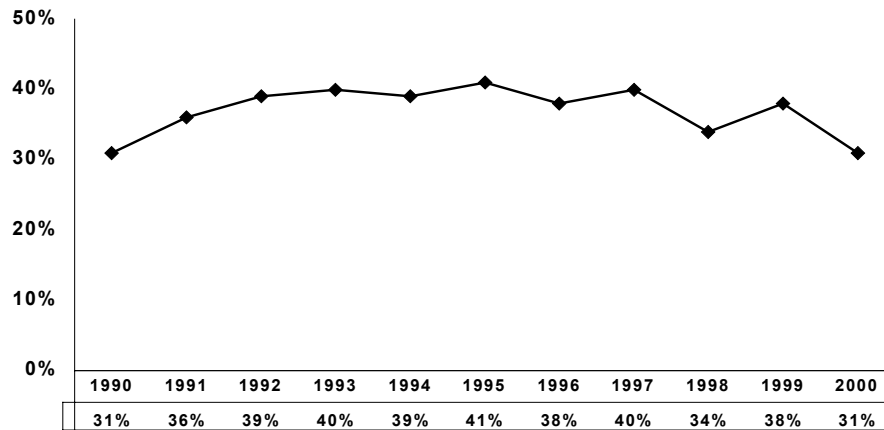
As of July 1, 2001, there are 4,376 people living with HIV/AIDS whose reported mode of exposure is injection drug use (IDU) and 1,168 whose mode of exposure is related to injection drug use (IDU-related), for a total of 5,544. The majority (68%) of people living with HIV/AIDS whose mode of exposure is IDU are men, while the majority (52%) of people living with HIV/AIDS whose mode of exposure is IDU-related are women. The racial/ethnic distribution across both groups, however, is very similar, with the majority of both groups being people of color: 35% of people living with HIV/AIDS with IDU and with IDU-related modes are Hispanic; and 24% of IDU and 23% of IDU-related exposures are Black.

I. Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Prevalence – HIV and AIDS Case Data

People living with HIV/AIDS who were exposed through injection drug use (IDU), as compared to all people living with HIV/AIDS in the state:

- Injection drug use is the reported mode of exposure for 31% of people living with HIV infection without an AIDS diagnosis, 36% of people living with AIDS, and 34% of people living with HIV infection/AIDS.
- Primary injection drug use and injection drug use-related exposure modes together account for 41% of people living with HIV infection, 45% of people living with AIDS, and 43% of people living with HIV infection/AIDS.
- There is a slightly higher percentage of women among people living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed through injection drug use than among all people living with HIV infection/AIDS in Massachusetts (32% among IDU compared to 28% of all exposures).
- There is a higher percentage of Hispanic persons among people living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed through injection drug use (34%), as compared to all people living with HIV infection/AIDS in Massachusetts (24%).
- The majority (58%) of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through injection drug use are people of color, compared to 49% of people living with HIV infection/AIDS in Massachusetts overall.
- From 1990 to 2000, injection drug use has accounted for 30% to 40% of diagnosed AIDS cases. (See *Figure 5.1*)

Figure 5.1 Percent of Reported AIDS Cases where the Mode of Exposure is IDU¹ by Year of Diagnosis: MA, 1990 - 2000



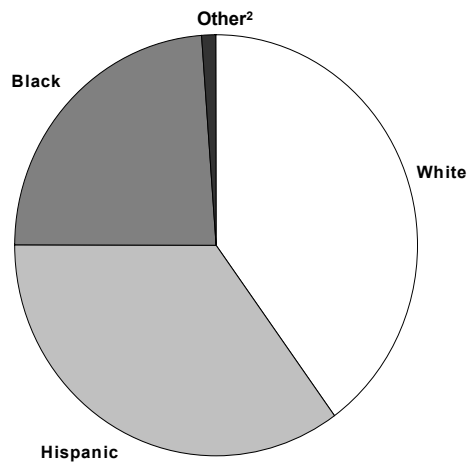
¹ Includes primary reported exposure of injection drug use
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program Data as of 7/1/01

Table 5.1 People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Where the Mode of Exposure is IDU¹: MA*Data as of July 1, 2001*

	HIV		AIDS		HIV/AIDS	
By Gender:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	1,112	64%	1,873	71%	2,985	68%
Female	621	36%	770	29%	1,391	32%
Total	1,733		2,643		4,376	
By Race/Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	725	42%	1,039	39%	1,764	40%
Black (non-Hispanic)	405	23%	644	24%	1,049	24%
Hispanic	591	34%	948	36%	1,539	35%
Asian / Pacific Islander	2	<1%	1	<1%	3	<1%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	<1%	6	<1%	9	<1%
Unknown	7	<1%	5	<1%	12	<1%
Total	1,733		2,643		4,376	
1 Includes primary reported exposure of injection drug use (IDU)						
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)						

- There are 4,376 people living with HIV infection and AIDS in Massachusetts with injection drug use as an exposure mode. (See Table 5.1)
- The majority (68%) of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through injection drug use are men.
- There are nearly as many Hispanics who were exposed to HIV through injection drug use as Whites (35% vs. 40%).
- Racial/ethnic minorities represent a higher percentage (59%) of people exposed to HIV through injection drug than the proportion of racial/ethnic minorities (49%) among all people with HIV infection/AIDS in MA.

**Figure 5.2 People living with HIV/AIDS by Race/Ethnicity
where the mode of exposure is IDU¹:
MA, Data as of July 01, 2001**



1 Includes primary reported exposure of injection drug use; 2 Other includes Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American/Alaskan Native, and unknown
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

Table 5.2 People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Where the Mode of Exposure is IDU-Related¹: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	HIV		AIDS		HIV/AIDS	
By Gender:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	220	44%	345	52%	565	48%
Female	282	56%	321	48%	603	52%
Total	502		666		1,168	
By Race / Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	200	40%	275	41%	475	41%
Black (non-Hispanic)	98	20%	171	26%	269	23%
Hispanic	195	39%	217	33%	412	35%
Asian / Pacific Islander	2	<1%	2	<1%	4	<1%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	2	<1%	1	<1%	3	<1%
Unknown	5	1%	0	0%	5	<1%
Total	502		666		1,168	
<p>1 Includes primary reported exposure of injection drug use and male sex with male, heterosexual sex with an injection drug user, pediatric exposure with a maternal risk of injection drug use, and pediatric exposure with a maternal risk of sex with an injection drug user</p> <p>Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)</p>						

- Injection drug use-related (IDU-related) exposure to HIV represents direct exposure (either sexual or perinatal) to an HIV infected person who is an injection drug user.
- Compared to women, men living with HIV infection and AIDS in MA are more often infected with HIV through their own injection drug use while women make up a larger percent of IDU-related exposures. (See Table 5.2)

Table 5.3 People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Where the Modes of Exposure are IDU¹ and IDU-Related²: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	HIV		AIDS		HIV/AIDS	
By Gender:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	1,332	60%	2,218	67%	3,550	64%
Female	903	40%	1,091	33%	1,994	36%
Total	2,235		3,309		5,544	
By Race / Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	925	41%	1,314	40%	2,239	40%
Black (non-Hispanic)	503	23%	815	25%	1,318	24%
Hispanic	786	35%	1,165	35%	1,951	35%
Asian / Pacific Islander	4	-- ²	3	-- ²	7	<1%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	5	<1%	7	<1%	12	<1%
Unknown	12	1%	5	<1%	17	<1%
Total	2,235		3,309		5,544	
1 Includes primary reported exposure of injection drug use (IDU)						
2 Includes primary reported exposure of injection drug use and male sex with male, heterosexual sex with an injection drug user, pediatric with a maternal risk of injection drug use, and pediatric with a maternal risk of sex with an injection drug user						
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)						

- Women account for 40% of all people living with HIV infection and AIDS who were exposed to HIV through either their own injection drug use or an injection drug use-related exposure. (See Table 5.3)
- The majority (59%) of people living with HIV infection and AIDS in MA who were exposed to HIV through either their own injection drug use or an injection drug use-related exposure are people of color. (See Table 5.3)

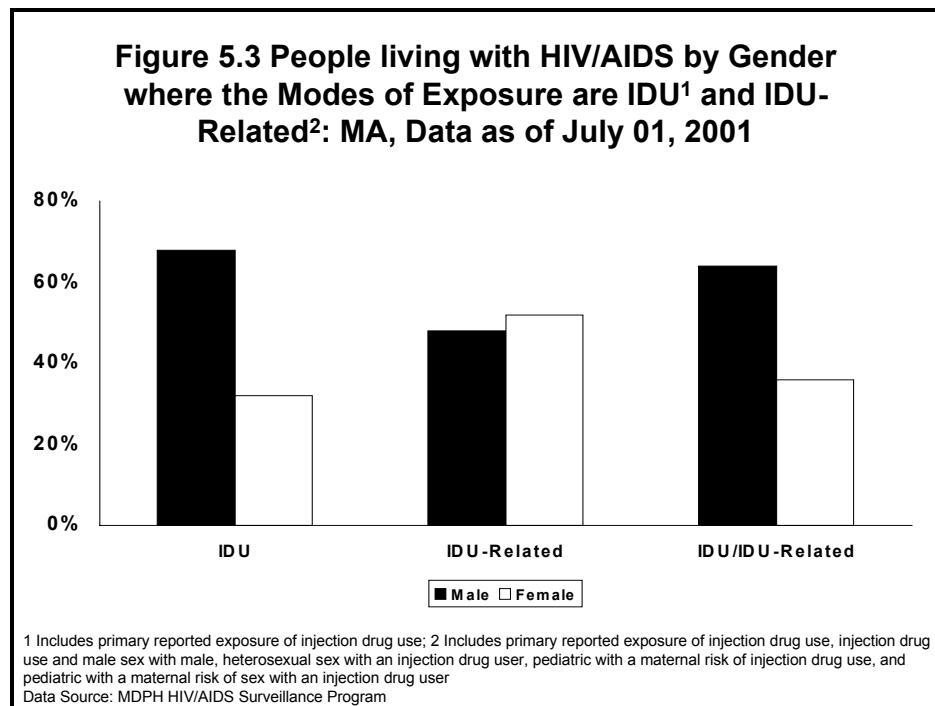


Table 5.4 People Living with HIV Infection by Age at HIV Diagnosis and People Living with AIDS by Age at AIDS Diagnosis where the Modes of Exposure are IDU¹ and IDU-related²: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	IDU		IDU-RELATED		<u>TOTAL</u> IDU + IDU-REL.	
By Age at HIV Diagnosis, in Years:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Under 13	-- ³	-- ³	-- ³	-- ³	-- ³	-- ³
13 to 19	15	1%	20	4%	35	2%
20 to 24	129	7%	63	13%	192	9%
25 to 29	269	16%	101	20%	370	17%
30 to 34	428	25%	98	20%	526	24%
35 to 39	417	24%	117	23%	534	24%
40 to 44	287	17%	62	12%	349	16%
45 to 49	135	8%	23	5%	158	7%
50+	53	3%	18	4%	71	3%
Total	1,733		502		2,235	
By Age at AIDS Diagnosis, in Years:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Under 13	-- ⁴	-- ⁴	37	6%	37	1%
13 to 19	6	<1%	5	1%	11	<1%
20 to 24	43	2%	38	6%	81	2%
25 to 29	252	10%	97	15%	349	11%
30 to 34	618	23%	150	23%	768	23%
35 to 39	754	29%	169	25%	923	28%
40 to 44	568	21%	95	14%	663	20%
45 to 49	286	11%	40	6%	326	10%
50+	116	4%	35	5%	151	5%
Total	2,643		666		3,309	
1 Includes primary reported exposure of injection drug use (IDU)						
2 Includes reported exposure of injection drug use and male sex with male, heterosexual sex with an injection drug user, pediatric with a maternal risk of injection drug use, and pediatric with a maternal risk of sex with an injection drug user						
3 Pediatric HIV infection surveillance is performed through a separate surveillance system, the Pediatric Spectrum of Disease (PSD) Project. HIV cases under age 13 are not included in totals.						
4 Cases diagnosed under age 13 are categorized as pediatric mode of exposure and therefore are not included in the IDU mode of exposure.						
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)						

- Among people living with HIV, 17% of those who were exposed to HIV through an injection drug use-related mode were adolescents (13-14 years old) at the time of diagnosis, whereas among people exposed through their own injection drug use only eight percent were adolescents at the time of diagnosis. (See Table 5.4)

- Among people living with AIDS, seven percent of those who were exposed to HIV through an injection drug use-related mode were adolescents (13-24 years old) at the time of their AIDS diagnosis, whereas among people exposed through their own injection drug use only two percent were adolescents at the time of diagnosis.

Table 5.5 People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS by Current Age where the Modes of Exposure are IDU¹ and IDU-related²: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	IDU		IDU-RELATED		<u>TOTAL</u> IDU + IDU-REL.	
By Current Age, in Years:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Under 13 ³	-- ⁴	-- ⁴	20	2%	20	<1%
13 to 19	1	<1%	21	2%	22	<1%
20 to 24	20	1%	23	2%	43	1%
25 to 29	89	2%	70	6%	159	3%
30 to 34	458	10%	171	15%	629	11%
35 to 39	1,017	23%	281	23%	1,298	23%
40 to 44	1,231	28%	263	23%	1,494	27%
45 to 49	945	22%	181	15%	1,126	20%
50+	615	14%	138	12%	753	14%
Total	4,376		1,168		5,544	

1 Includes primary reported exposure of injection drug use (IDU)
 2 Includes primary reported exposure of injection drug use, injection drug use and male sex with male, heterosexual sex with an injection drug user, pediatric with a maternal risk of injection drug use, and pediatric with a maternal risk of sex with an injection drug user
 3 Pediatric HIV infection surveillance is performed through a separate surveillance system, the Pediatric Spectrum of Disease (PSD) Project. HIV cases under age 13 are not included in totals.
 4 Cases diagnosed under age 13 are categorized as pediatric mode of exposure and therefore are not included in the IDU mode of exposure.
 Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- 12% of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through an injection drug use-related mode are currently under the age of 30, compared to only three percent of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through their own injection drug use. (See Table 5.4)
- The majority (61%) of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through either their own injection drug use or an injection drug use related mode are currently age 40 or older.

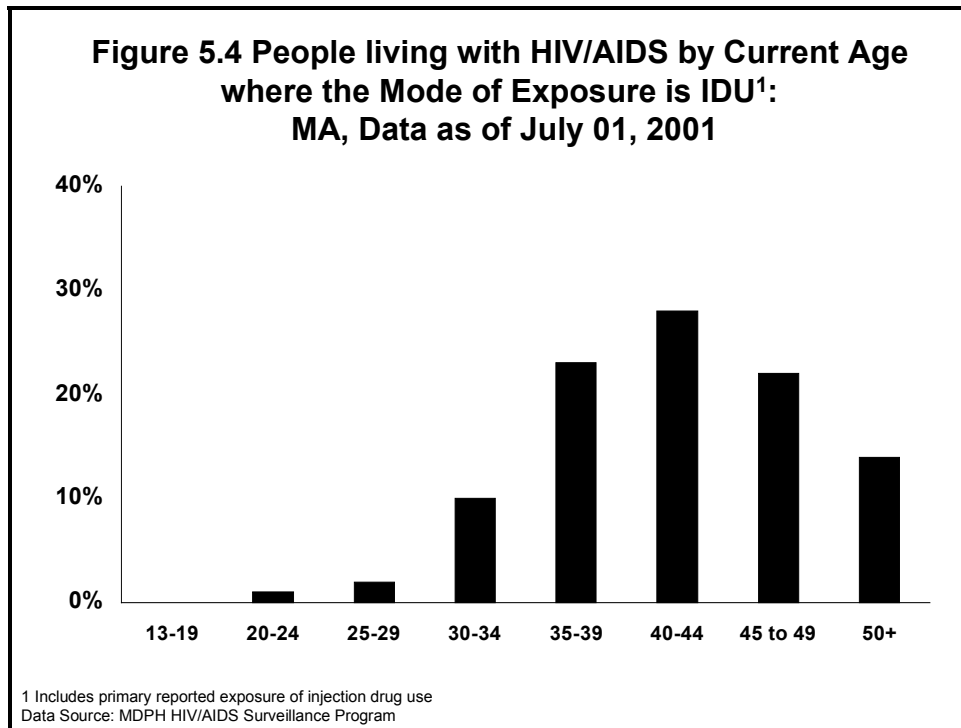


Table 5.6 People Living with HIV Infection/AIDS Where the Mode of Exposure is IDU¹, Gender by Race/Ethnicity: MA

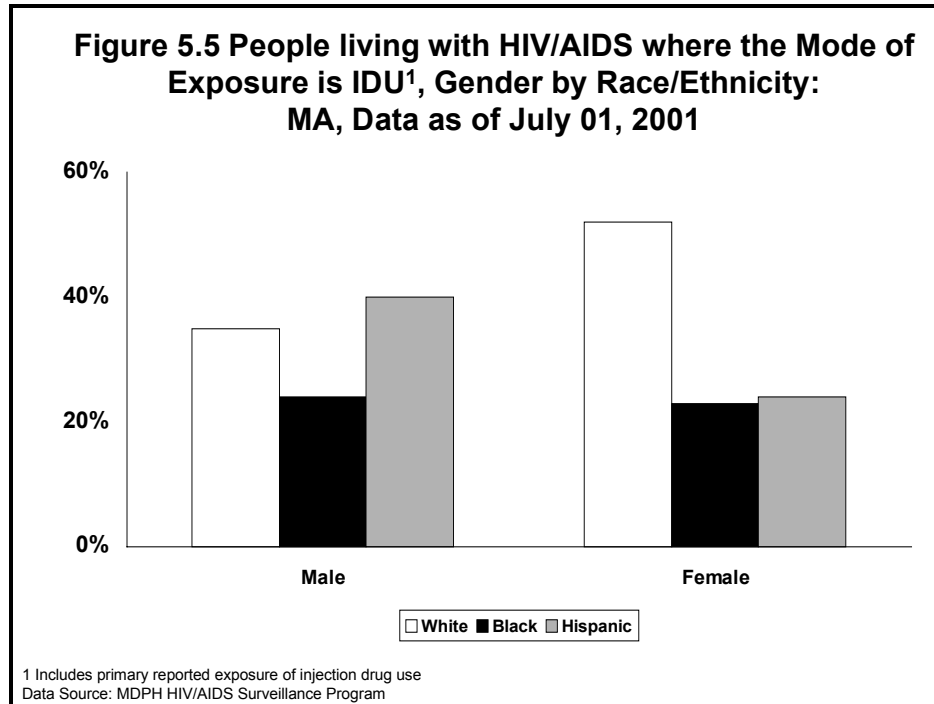
Data as of July 1, 2001

	White NH		Black NH		Hispanic		Other		Unknown	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	1,044	59%	726	69%	1,202	78%	7	58%	6	50%
Female	720	41%	323	31%	337	22%	5	42%	6	50%
Total	1,764		1,049		1,539		12		12	

1 Includes primary reported exposure of injection drug use (IDU)
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- The distribution of gender among people living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through their own injection drug use varies across racial/ethnic groups. (See Table 5.6)
- Although men account for the majority of persons living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through their own injection drug use in all racial/ethnic groups, the gender differential is closest to parity among White persons (59% male and 41% female).

- Among Hispanics, women account for the smallest percentage (22%) of persons living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through their own injection drug use.



II. Seroprevalence Data - Unlinked HIV Seroprevalance program

Table 5.7 Table. HIV and Syphilis Seropositivity at Three Publicly Funded STD Clinics¹ Among IDU: MA, 1990 – 2000			
	TOTAL TESTS	% HIV POSITIVE	% SYPHILIS POSITIVE
1990	1,005	27%	12%
1991	120	18%	8%
1992	94	14%	9%
1993	94	9%	4%
1994	48	0%	0%
1995	44	5%	9%
1996	29	14%	3%
1997	26	0%	8%
1998	116	3%	3%
1999	68	4%	4%
2000	91	0%	4%
¹ Tests performed at 3 selected publicly funded STD clinic sites. (People also test for HIV and Syphilis at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table) Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau Counseling and Testing Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)			

- HIV and Syphilis seropositivity for IDU at three publicly funded STD clinics has varied from 1990 to 2000. (See Table 5.7)
- Generally, the percent of IDUs testing positive for HIV and Syphilis has decreased from 1990 to 2000.

III.A. Behavioral Data - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Table 5.8 Support For Needle Exchange By Health Service Region (HSR) Among Adults: MA, 2000

By HSR:	Percent Agree	Percent Disagree	Percent Don't Know	N
Boston HSR:	68%	27%	6%	982
Central HSR:	55%	40%	5%	740
Metrowest HSR:	70%	24%	6%	1,067
Northeast HSR:	60%	35%	5%	1,111
Southeast HSR:	61%	34%	5%	1,075
Western HSR:	62%	33%	6%	1,009
Total:	64%	31%	5%	5,984
Data Source: Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2000 Note: Response categories were collapsed for the purposes of this analysis: agree includes strongly agree and agree, disagree includes strongly disagree and disagree				

- Among 5,984 respondents to the BRFSS in MA, 64% supported needle exchange programs in 2000.
- While the majority of respondents in each Health Service Region (HSR) supported needle exchange programs, the HSRs with the highest proportion of supporters are the Metrowest and Boston regions.

III.B. Behavioral Data - Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)**Table 5.9 Percentage of Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey Respondents Reporting Lifetime (Ever) Injection Drug Use, Gender by Grade and Race/Ethnicity: MA
Calendar Year 1999**

	Males		Females		<u>Total</u> Male + Female	
By Grade:	%	Total N¹	%	Total N¹	%	Total N¹
9 th grade	4%	666	1%	642	3%	1,312
10 th grade	3%	532	1%	532	2%	1,068
11 th grade	4%	518	3%	509	3%	1,031
12 th grade	3%	458	1%	481	2%	941
Total	4%	4,382	2%	4,382	3%	4,382
By Race/Ethnicity:	%	Total N¹	%	Total N¹	%	Total N¹
White	3%	1,509	2%	1,586	2%	3,103
Black	5%	148	0%	136	3%	284
Hispanic	4%	250	2%	225	3%	479
Asian	6%	157	4%	119	5%	277
Respondents of Other/Mixed race/ethnicity	8%	86	4%	75	5%	161
Total	4%	4,415	2%	4,415	3%	4,415
1 Total N = total number of respondents by sex. The number of respondents for each question varies because not all questions are asked of everyone taking the survey and even when the question is asked some survey participants do not provide an answer Data Source: Massachusetts Department of Education						

- In 1999, 3% of respondents to the Massachusetts YRBS reported injection drug use. 4% of male respondents reported this activity.
- Among males, the highest rates of injection drug use were among 9th graders (4%) and other/mixed race/ethnicity (8%)
- Among females, the highest rate of injection drug use were among 11th graders (3%) and respondents of other/mixed race/ethnicity (4%)

IV.A. Service Utilization – HIV Counseling and Testing Data

Table 5.10 Number and Percent of Positive HIV Tests¹ by Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Age of Client for Reported Risk of Injection Drug Use: MA, 2000			
HIV Tests by Gender of Client:	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS	PERCENT POSITIVE
Male	4,339	63	1%
Female	1,820	24	1%
HIV Tests by Race/Ethnicity of Client:	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS	PERCENT POSITIVE
White (not Hispanic)	3,751	33	1%
African-American (not Hispanic)	366	13	4%
Hispanic/Latino	1,447	38	3%
Asian	40	0	0%
American Indian/Aleutian/Eskimo	25	0	0%
Haitian	0	0	0%
Brazilian	6	0	0%
Portuguese	353	0	0%
Cape Verdean	83	1	1%
Other	0	0	0%
Unknown	88	2	2%
HIV Tests by Age of Client, in Years:	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS	PERCENT POSITIVE
Under 13	1	0	0%
13 to 19	176	0	0%
20 to 24	903	2	0%
25 to 29	1,055	8	1%
30 to 34	1,170	20	2%
35 to 39	1,202	21	2%
40 to 44	874	20	2%
45 to 49	468	9	2%
50+	215	6	2%
Unknown	95	1	1%
Total	6,159	87	2%
¹ Tests performed at publicly funded counseling and testing sites. (People also test for HIV at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table) Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau Counseling and Testing Program			

- In 2000, about twice as many male IDUs (4,339) as female IDUs (1,820) were tested at publicly funded Counseling and Testing sites.
- The majority of IDUs who received HIV tests were White non-Hispanic (3,751), followed by Latinos (1,447) and to a lesser extent African Americans (366) and Portuguese (343).
- In 2000, Latinos comprised 23% of all IDUs tested for HIV at publicly funded sites and 44% of all IDUs who tested positive.
- More IDUs in their 30s (30-39) were tested for HIV than in any other age category, and there were more IDUs testing positive in the 30 and older age categories.

Table 5.11 Number and Percent of Positive HIV Tests¹ by Year of Test for Clients with Reported Risk of Injection Drug Use: MA, 1992-2000

HIV Tests by Year of Test	Total Tests	Total Positive Results	Percent Positive
1992	3,778	337	9%
1993	4,278	320	7%
1994	5,530	348	6%
1995	6,023	304	5%
1996	6,990	321	5%
1997	7,184	248	3%
1998	7,551	206	3%
1999	5,868	124	2%
2000	5,929	78	1%
Total	53,131	2,286	

1 Tests performed at publicly funded counseling and testing sites. (People also test for HIV at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table)

- The number of IDUs who were tested for HIV at publicly funded Counseling and Testing sites doubled from 1992 to 1998 and then declined through 2000.
- The percent of IDUs testing positive steadily decreased by eight percent from 1992 through 2000 and is currently at one percent.

IV.B. Service Utilization - Needle Exchange Program Data

Table 5.12 Characteristics of New Enrollees to State-funded Needle Exchange Programs: MA, 2000¹		
By Gender:	Number	Percent(%)
Male	467	68%
Female	170	24%
By Age, in Years:	Number	Percent(%)
18-20	24	4%
21-30	218	31%
31-40	231	34%
41-50	175	26%
50+	35	5%
By Race/Ethnicity:	Number	Percent(%)
White	462	67%
Black	44	6%
Latino	134	20%
Cape Verdean	8	1%
Portuguese	10	1%
By Sexual Orientation	Number	Percent(%)
Heterosexual	614	90%
Bisexual	35	5%
Gay/lesbian	21	3%
By Needle Sharing Frequency	Number	Percent(%)
Always	32	5%
Sometimes	258	38%
Never	340	50%
Declined	15	2%
Age at first injection under 20 years old	309	45%
Total¹	685	
1 Not all categories add up to Total due to missing data; Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau		

- In 2000, there were 685 new enrollees to state-funded needle exchange programs.
- The majority of enrollees were male (68%), 31-40 years old (34%), White (67%), and heterosexual (90%).
- 45% reported an age at first injection of under 20 years old.

- Regarding frequency of needle sharing (upon enrollment) 5% reported always sharing needles, 38% reported sometimes sharing needles, and 50% reported never sharing needles.

IV.C. Service Utilization – Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Data**Table 5.13 Characteristics of Admissions to State-funded Substance Abuse Treatment Programs: MA, Fiscal Year 2000¹**

	Total Admissions		Admissions Reporting Needle Use in the Past Year	
By Gender:	N	%	N	%
Male	87,353	73%	23,165	71%
Female	31,857	27%	9,438	29%
By Age, in Years:	N	%	N	%
0-20	9,460	8%	1,480	5%
21-29	27,222	23%	10,042	31%
30-39	43,560	37%	12,438	38%
40-49	29,523	25%	7,367	23%
50+	9,445	8%	1,276	4%
By Race/Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%
White	83,847	70%	22,903	70%
Black	14,866	12%	2,225	7%
Latino	16,719	14%	6,420	20%
Other	3,778	3%	1,055	3%
By Primary Substance:	N	%	N	%
Alcohol	57,133	48%	2,416	7%
Heroin	41,072	35%	28,803	88%
Cocaine	5,080	4%	613	2%
Crack	4,859	4%	228	1%
Marijuana	7,577	6%	144	<1%
Other	908	3%	399	1%
By Region ² :	N	%	N	%
Western HSR	19,661	17%	3,314	11%
Central HSR	14,834	13%	5,580	17%
Northeast HSR	19,629	17%	6,453	20%
Metrowest HSR	16,243	14%	3,924	12%
Southeast HSR	23,042	20%	6,334	20%
Boston HSR	24,774	21%	6,572	20%
By Education:	N	%	N	%
< High School	38,742	33%	11,122	34%
High School graduate	56,356	47%	16,263	50%
> High School	24,112	20%	5,218	16%
By Other Variables:	N	%	N	%
Employed	32,292	27%	3,695	11%
Not Employed	86,918	73%	28,908	89%
Homeless	19,372	16%	6,296	19%
Not Homeless	99,838	84%	26,307	81%
Pregnant	585	<1%	220	<1%
Total³	119,210		32,603	

1 Fiscal Year 2000 = 6/30/99 – 7/1/00; 2 Region is the Health Service Region (HSR) of the client's primary residence;
 3 Not all categories add up to Total due to missing data; Data Source: MDPH Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

- In 2000, 119,210 people were admitted to state-funded substance abuse treatment programs. Of these 32,603 reported needle use in the past year.
- The majority of people admitted were male (73%), 30-39 years old (31%), White (70%), and had a primary substance abuse of alcohol (48%) or heroin (35%).
- 38% of people admitted who used needles were under 30 years old compared to 37% of all people admitted to state-funded substance abuse treatment programs.
- More needle users were Latino compared to total admissions (20% vs. 14%) and fewer were Black (7% vs. 12%).

